



OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COORDINATOR
FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND SUPPORT

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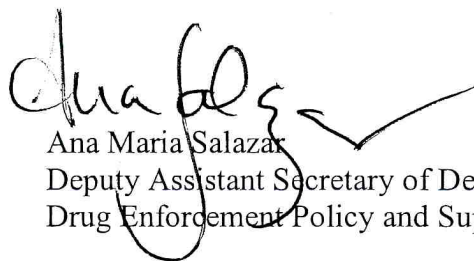
JUN 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY)

SUBJECT: Pre-accession Drug and Alcohol Testing

I was informed of your new policy governing the qualification of all applicants for military service and in particular the change to shorten the Marijuana (THC) pre-enlistment retest period from 180 days to 45 days. My office did not have the opportunity to clear on the policy memorandum signed by the Secretary. I understand that there were several factors driving this change, including those related to accessions. Those notwithstanding, this change has clear implications for our National Drug Policy and may, in fact, negatively impact Department of Defense readiness by accepting more individuals who have illegal drug consumption problems. In addition, there will be additional costs to the Department that affect the CTA account that I oversee. These include the substantially increased workload at our drug screening laboratories and costs of inducting, processing, training, and discharging more service members for drug use.

As discussed in a conference call with your office on this date, the magnitude of the problem of recruiting more drug users and the ability of the Services to correct the problem through mentoring programs are difficult to predict. We accept your commitment made during this conference call to closely monitor the implications of this policy change over the next year. My office needs current statistics relevant to this issue that you have collected under the current policy. Also, please provide me quarterly statistics of a similar nature for the next year. In particular I would like data that shows the number and percent of applicants who enter active duty having had one positive pre-accession urine drug test and subsequently have a positive drug test while on active duty. With the agreement made during the conference call to work together, I am confident that we can address any need that develops that would require a policy change.



Ana Maria Salazar
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Drug Enforcement Policy and Support

